

What is claimed is:

1. A method for making a stent comprising:
  - heat treating a plurality of wire strands;
  - coating the wire strands with a biocompatible fluoropolymer in an extruder to produce a plurality of coated wire strands;
  - spooling the coated wire strands; and
  - interlacing the coated wire strands from separate spools into a tightly held together monolayer integrated tubular shape, the tubular shape adapted to have axial and radial compressibility for insertion into a cardiovascular, vascular or non-vascular system of a human body.
2. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the wire strands include a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, tungsten, titanium, nickel-titanium alloy, gold, silver or a combination thereof.
3. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the fluoropolymer is selected from the group consisting of PTFE, ePTFE, FEP or a combination thereof.
4. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one wire strand is employed in a coil pattern.
5. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein interlacing the coated wire strands is carried out in a knitting machine.
6. The method as defined in claim 5 wherein a brake mechanism on a spool supplying one coated wire strand causes the spool to supply such coated wire strand at a slower rate than other spools supplying the other coated wire strands.
7. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein textile strands are interlaced between the coated wire strands.

8. The method as defined in claim 7 wherein the textile strands include a material selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene or a combination thereof.
9. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one wire strand is preheated in an oven to impart an intended shape prior to coating.
10. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the tightly held together monolayer integrated tubular shape allows for the exuding of blood for proper lumen wall function.
11. A method for making a stent comprising:
  - heating a plurality of wire strands to impart a desired shape to the wire strands;
  - coating each wire strand with a biocompatible polymer in an extruder to produce a plurality of coated wire strands; and
  - interlacing the coated wire strands to form a stent.
12. The method as defined in claim 11 further including regulating the speed of the wire strands in the extruder to provide a uniform coating.
13. The method as defined in claim 12 wherein interlacing includes braiding the coated wire strands in a braiding machine.
14. The method as defined in claim 13 further including spooling the coated wire strands onto spools, and wherein braiding includes removing the coated wire strands from the spools while braiding the coated wire strands in the braiding machine.
15. The method as defined in claim 14 further including regulating the speed of at least one of the spools at a slower rate than other spools.
16. The method as defined in claim 15 further including incorporating a fabric material between the braided, coated wire strands.

17. The method as defined in claim 16 further including preparing ends of the wire strands to prevent fraying.

18. The method as defined in claim 11 wherein interlacing includes knitting the coated wire strands in a knitting machine.

19. A method for making a stent comprising:

coating a plurality of wire strands with a biocompatible polymer and an adhesive in an extruder to produce a plurality of coated wire strands;

heating the coated wire strands to activate the adhesive; and

interlacing the coated wire strands to produce a stent.

20. A method for making a stent comprising:

interlacing a plurality of wire strands into a desired shape;

heating the wire strands in the desired shape;

removing the wire strands from the desired shape;

coating the wire strands with a biocompatible polymer; and

interlacing the wire strands to form a stent.